

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10597 160955Z

17

ACTION NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 OES-03 EB-07 COME-00

RSC-01 /032 W

----- 073877

R 160910Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9425

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 10597

DEPT PASS NASA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, IR

SUBJECT: ERTS GROUND STATION: CANCELLATION OF BENDIX LETTER OF
INTENT

REF: A. STATE 247216; B. TEHRAN 9659; C. STATE 267731

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED, AND HAS RECEIVED CONFIRMATION
THEREOF, THAT THE LETTER OF INTENT WHICH GOI GAVE
TO BENDIX FOR SUPPLY OF TRANSPORTABLE GROUND STATION HAS
BEEN CANCELLED. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, BENDIX HAD
EARLIER INDICATED TO GOI THAT COST OF ERTS GROUND STATION
WOULD BE FOUR MILLION DOLLARS AND THIS WAS THE FIGURE THE
GOI PLANNING MINISTER MAJIDI HAD TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED.
THEREAFTER, AS NEGOTIATIONS FOR SIGNING FORMAL CONTRACT
WERE NEARING COMPLETION, BENDIX RAISED
FIGURE TO \$5.2 MILLION WHICH EVIDENTLY INCLUDED A
PROVISION FOR TRAINING WHICH WAS NOT PRESENT IN THE
LOWER FIGURE. ALTHOUGH, ACCORDING TO ERTS PROJECT
MANAGER EBTEHADJ, THE SHAH HIMSELF HAD SELECTED BENDIX
AND GOI DID NOT GO THE ROUTE OF CLOSED BIDDING, MINISTER
MAJIDI, REPORTEDLY CONSERABLY IRRITATED AT BENDIX, WAS
ABLE TO OBTAIN CANCELLATION OF BENDIX LETTER OF INTENT
WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 10597 160955Z

2. RELATED TO THE FOREGOING HAS BEEN A REQUEST MADE TO KHOSROW EBTEHADJ, ERTS PROJECT MANAGER, THAT HE SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION. EVIDENTLY RELATIONS BETWEEN EBTEHADJ AND HIS MMINISTER, MAJIDI, HAVE FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS BEEN GOING SOUR FOR SOME TIME. EBTEHADJ TELLS US THAT HE BELIEVES BENDIX IS THE BEST QUALIFIED SUPPLIER OF THE TRANSPORTABLE GROUND STATION AND POINTED OUT TO MAJIDI THAT BENDIX WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE \$4 MILLION FIGURE PROVIDED IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO TRAINING COMPONENT. FOR MAJIDI THIS WAS APPARENTLY THE LAST STRAW AND EBTEHADJ WAS ASKED TO SUBMIT HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION. WE ARE TOLD THAT EBTEHADJ IS NOT NOW WORKING AT THE MINISTRY BUT REFUSES TO SUBMIT THE LETTER. REPORTEDLY, HE INTENDS TO SEEK REDRESS BY SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER AND, IF UNSUCCESSFUL IN THIS EFFORT, WILL SEEK AN AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH.

3. MEANWHILE, MINISTRY OF PLANNING HAS ASKED FOLLOWING FIRMS TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 21: BENDIX (US); GE (US); ROCKWELL (US); RCA (US); AND CDC OF CANADA (CANADIAN FIRM). ACCORDING TO GE REPRESENTATIVE, CDC OF CANADA OPERATES ABROAD ON A SUBSIDIZED BASIS AND RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED A GROUND STATION IN ITALY AT ONE-THIRD OF THE ACTUAL COST WITH THE BALANCE BEING PICKED UP BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. ALL THE US FIRMS LISTED ARE EVIDENTLY QUALIFIED AS REGARDS THE SUPPLY OF TRANSPORTABLE GROUND STATION BUT THE ENTRY OF A CANADIAN FIRM IN THE PICTURE IS OF COURSE A DISQUIETING ELEMENT AS FAR AS US IS CONCERNED. GE REP SAID THAT NASA IS WELL AWARE THAT CDC OF CANADA OPERATES ABROAD ON A SUBSIDIZED BASIS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FROM DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY OTTAWA WHATEVER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON CDC OF CANADA, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS ANY FINANCIAL SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. HELMS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRACKING STATIONS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN10597
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740364-0563
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741231/aaaabaeu.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NASA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 STATE 247216, 74 TEHRAN 9659, 74 STATE 267731
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ERTS GROUND STATION: CANCELLATION OF BENDIX LETTER OF INTENT
TAGS: EGEN, TSPA, IR, NASA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005